

PATENT

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as follows:

Figure 9 has been labeled to indicate "FIG. 9"

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REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 11, 15, 22, 25, 31, 35, 41 are independent. Claims 1-12, 14-16 and 18-24 are rejected. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 35-46. After entry of the above amendments, claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-23, and 25-34 have been canceled. Claims 13, 17, 24, and 35 - 46 are pending in the present application. Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

APPLICANTS HAVE AMENDED CLAIMS 22-24 TO OVERCOME THIS REJECTION.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11-12, 14-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by WO 01/35673. Applicants have canceled the claims. Therefore this rejection is moot.

IV. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 10 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. WO 01/35673. Applicants have canceled the claims. Therefore this rejection is moot.

V. OBJECTED CLAIMS

Applicants have amended claims 13 and 17 to depend from their respective base and intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants request the examiner to pass these claims for allowance.

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REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 8, 2005

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